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School Committee Minutes 01/27/2009

Approved by School Committee March 10, 2009

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2009
7:30 P.M.**

Present: Denise Burns, Chair, Leba Heigham
Joe Curran, Vice Chair Jeff Thielman
Sue Sheffler Joe Curro

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Student Reps: Alice Xiang and Ellery Rosin

Excused Absence: Ronald Spangler, Secretary
Chief Financial Officer: Sue Mazzarella
Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

*Ms. Sheffler exited the meeting at 9:34 p.m.
Student Reps exited the meeting at 10:17 p.m.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:30 - 8:25 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman it was motioned to enter Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. to strategize with respect to non-union contract negotiations, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Roll Call: Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes, and Ms. Heigham Yes.

Vote 6:0

On a motion by Mr. Curro it was unanimously voted to exit out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m. and return to our regular open meeting with a two minutes break, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Roll Call: Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr. Curro Yes, Mr. Curran Yes, Ms. Burns Yes, Ms. Sheffler Yes, and Ms. Heigham Yes.

Vote 6:0

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Meg Moloney (Thompson School Rebuilt Task Force member) was here to advocate for the students in East Arlington.

Interim Superintendent Bodie announced that Arlington Public Schools would have No School on Wednesday, January 28, 2009 due to the snowstorm.

RECOGNITION AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Ms. Burns announced that student representatives Lauren Alderman and Adam Formica would be presenting updates on the School Committee meetings at the ACMI studios.

Alice Xiang reported on an email from Director of Fine Arts that two Arlington High Students were accepted into the All State Honors Orchestra, Bassists Amanda Strominger, a junior, and Otto Briner, a sophomore. Also the Honors

Orchestra has been chosen to perform at the Massachusetts Music Educator's All-State Conference in March. The following musicians should be congratulated: Katherine Britt, Holly Everett, Lillian Inella, David Haleem, Lucas Jaffe, Mary Linders, Claire-Marie Malfroy-Camine, Emily Nauman, Drew Pereli, Amanda Strominger, Ken Trieu, Deanna Wu, and student rep Alice Xiang.

Ellery Rosin read a notice inviting all to An Evening of Song featuring the Ottoson Middle School and High School Chorus and the Women's Choir and Madrigal Singers on Wednesday, February 4, 2009 in the Lowe Auditorium.

GERMAINE LAWRENCE LICENSE APPROVAL

David Hirshberg, Director of Germaine Lawrence has come to ask for an endorsement of their application for the program development of a "therapeutic day program", at Germaine Lawrence. It would be required to obtain approval from the Arlington School Committee to proceed with their DESE application. After reviewing their intentions, facilities, policies, procedures, and potential conflicts Kathy Bodie and Mark Ryder are convinced that this program will conform to all state and federal regulations and educational best practices.

Mr. Curro moved to approve the day program at Germaine Lawrence per the recommendation of Interim Superintendent Kathleen Bodie and Director of Special Education Mark Ryder, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Vote 6:0

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Charlie Skidmore presented Change in Course Levels for 2009 - 2010 Program of Studies. In an effort to streamline course offerings and encourage more students to take rigorous classes, he is proposing to change the name of our "Advanced" course level (to be called "Curriculum A") and eliminate our College 1 level classes. The reason for the changes

§ Colleges do not recognize any difference between the Advanced and College I levels. Colleges recalculate GPAs provided on high school transcripts and they do not distinguish between Advanced and College I.

§ Most suburban high schools have a structure similar to what Mr. Skidmore is proposing (four levels),

○ Advance Placement, Curriculum H, Curriculum A and Curriculum B.

§ The AHS Social Studies Department piloted the "Curriculum A: approach during SY 2008 - 2009.

§ 90% of AHS students score at proficient or advanced on their MCAS exams. The vast majority of AHS students have the ability to work at a Curriculum H or Curriculum A level.

§ The upcoming budget shortfall may demand such a move.

After discussion and a request from the committee to have data brought back to the committee on how this is working next year, the members unanimously approved the Program of Studies - Change in Course Levels.

Mr. Thielman motioned to approve the 2009 - 2010 Program of Studies, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

DISTRICT ACCOUNTABILITY VOTE

Joe Curro, Leba Heigham, and Joe Curran presented the subcommittee District Accountability draft 4 Grid used to measure progress of each Goal.

Mr. Curro moved to add Objective 4- L "Staff Input into Professional Development Planning" with a measure of "Survey of all teaching staff regarding overall satisfaction with professional development offerings and soliciting suggestions for improvements," designating the Assistant Superintendent responsible, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Vote 5:0

Mr. Curro motioned to move the District Accountability Grid recommended by the District Accountability Subcommittee endorsing the grid with 1-C language added by ELL Director, and new language approved by School Committee tonight with new objective on 4-L, seconded by Mr. Curran.

Vote 5:0

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Ms. Kathleen Bodie reiterated that there would be no school on Wednesday January 28, 2009 due to the snowstorm.

Ms. Bodie congratulated Tino D'Agostino and the Arlington High School Orchestra on being selected to perform at the Massachusetts Music Educator's All-State Conference in March. At the Martin Luther King, Jr. 21st annual dinner at Town Hall, Elizabeth Oppedisano was recognized for her outstanding achievement in promoting tolerance in Arlington.

Ms. Bodie reported that the Ottoson Middle School Principal Search Committee has selected candidates to be interviewed. Finalists will be invited to attend separate forums with teachers, administrators, and parents to have an opportunity to ask questions of the candidates, at a time to be announced after February vacation.

ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Burns summarized the Superintendent Search Process Subcommittees recommendation of Ms. Bodie's contract to the committee during Executive Session and the six members unanimously approved the contract at that time.

**Mr. Thielman motioned to approve The Contract for Interim Superintendent Kathleen Bodie and authorize Ms. Burns to sign the contract, seconded by Mr. Curro.
Vote 5-0 unanimous (Ms. Sheffler had exited the meeting)**

Mr. Curro informed the committee that he had attend the Stand for Children summit and the OMS MLK celebration. He also indicated that the Day on the Hill would be March 25, 2009. Mr. Curro had asked Ms. Bodie about next school years calendar. He questioned the start date due to Labor Day being so late in September, and Ms. Bodie responded that she must get together with the Teachers Union to discuss this issue.

Mr. Thielman would like the Brackett School members involved with "Cricket Yard" attend the February 24, 2009 School Committee meeting. Mr. Thielman disclosed that the Transportation Advisory Committee voted to approve the Pilot Program to Ride Your Bikes to School. After Mr. Thielman inquired about the selection of the Assistant Superintendent for the remainder of this school year, Ms. Bodie did state that she has begun discussions with someone and hopes to have him/her in place this spring part-time

Ms. Heigham had asked about a status report on a motion made at the November 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting addressing two policies BDA and BDAA. Mr. Curran responded that he and Mr. Curro had meet with Policy and Procedures Subcommittee and continues to consolidate data received and hopes to meet again within two weeks and will report back to the full committee. Ms. Heigham will meet again with the CARS to revisit their program before coming to the full committee. The next CIA meeting will be on February 9, 2009 at 4:00.

SECRETARY REPORT

Ms. Burns supplied an update on MASC documents received in Mr. Spangler's absence.

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

- * Approval of School Committee minutes from November 25, 2008 and January 5, 2009**
- * Approval of Warrant # 09097 in the amount of \$236,605.81 dated January 6, 2009**
- * Approval of Warrant # 09100 in the amount of \$216,586.58 dated January 13, 2009**
- * Approval of Job Description for Grant Writer**
- * Approval of Fees for Integrated Pre-School**

Mr. Curro motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, amending the motion to remove Fees for Integrated Pre-school for discussion, Mr. Curran amending to remove the Job Description for Grant Writer and Ms. Burns requesting to remove Warrant 09100 due to the difference of \$50. seconded by Mr. Thielman.

**The vote to approve the Warrant of 09097 in the amount of \$236,605.81 dated January 6, 2009 and the School Committee minutes from November 25, 2008 and January 5, 2009, seconded by Mr. Thielman.
Vote 5:0**

After a brief discussion and a notation by accounts payable on why Warrant #09100 in the amount of \$216,856.58 dated January 13, 2009 was reduced by \$50.00 due to payment adjustment to the elevator company the following motion was made.

**Mr. Thielman motioned to approve the Warrant #09100 in the amount of \$216,856.58 dated January 13, 2009, seconded by Mr. Curran.
Vote 5:0**

The committee members deliberated on the Grant Writer/Coordinator Job Description initially because of the uncertainty of salary, further discussions on this position becoming a contracted service position versus a stipend position. The skills of the grant writer having a master's degree, amount of hours involved and posting of the position internally, were also discussed. The Committee could not come to an agreement on the job description in short because no salary range was supplied. After Ms. Bodie gave a salary range of \$10,000 - \$30,000, Mr. Curran, Ms. Burns and Mr. Curro could not support such a broad range and would not support the motion to approve the Grant Writer/Coordinator job description. Ms. Burns suggested Ms. Bodie ironing out this job description with allocating hours and salary before approval could be completed.

Mr. Thielman moved to approve Job Description with a Stipend of \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year for the Grant Writer / Coordinator, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Vote 2:3 motion fails (Mr. Thielman and Ms. Heigham voting Yes)

Mr. Curro motioned to approve Fees for Integrated Pre-School, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Vote 5:0

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thielman motioned to adjourn at 10:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Curran.

Vote 5:0

Respectfully Submitted

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee db

Draft minutes from 1/13/09 are included for review